

Town Of Groton, Vermont – Selectboard Minutes, September 24, 2015 (Approved)

The duly warned meeting of the Groton Selectboard of September 24, 2015 was held at the Groton Community Building, 1476 Scott Highway.

Attendance for the meeting included: Daniel Robinson, Betty Stewart, Jeff Stewart, Dorothy Knott, Wade Johnson Sr, Linda Nunn, Tim Daily, Jim Cilley, Shawn Crown, Kitty Diggins, Nancy Vaughan, Roberta Dana, Lisa Hart, Janet Locke and Jim Langlois.

The Following Selectboard Members were in attendance: Peter Lyon, Andrew Dorsett, and Mary Grant

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Updates and adjustments to the agenda:

Adopt Resolution to grant permission for the Planning Commission to apply for a Grant.

Informational notes on sidewalk grants.

Informational notes on the addition of lighting and power at the triangle in by the Methodist Church.

Rotation and term limits for Planning Committee members.

Appointment of a Building Committee Secretary.

Nancy Vaughan from the Planning Commission submitted a resolution requesting permission for the Planning Commission to apply for a Grant of \$8,000 to be use to update the Town Plan. Andrew Dorsett moved to adopt the resolution, Mary Grant Seconded. Andrew Dorsett read the resolution into record. The NVDA team was given recognition for assisting the Planning Commission. The Board voted unanimously to approve.

Public to be Heard:

Betty and Jeff Stewart appeared before the Board to discuss the issue of water that runs across Railroad Street. The origin of the water is from the Rose Wood residence which pumps water from the basement on a regular basis. The Stewarts understand Rose Wood's need to continuously pump her basement, however the water is causing damage to a traveled roadway and would like the Town to research a suitable solution for all parties. After gathering more information the Select Board said they would discuss alternatives with the Road Commissioner and make a decision based on his input.

Dorothy Knott wanted to inform the Chairman of the Select Board that calling the Fire Chief after 8:00pm was not acceptable.

Stump Dump Status:

Wade Johnson indicated he has been checking the stump dump. He is concerned that folks may continue to use the dump and not adhere to the "Closed" sign. He recommends a gate of some kind at the lower end. There still need to be access to the area. He said he has talked to Gene Perkins at East Ryegate Recycling and Gene has agreed to accept some brush and unpainted wood building materials. Wade Johnson is researching the cost and effectiveness of contracting a "grinder" to take care of the larger stumps and such. So far it seems like an expensive option. Wade said he will work with Brent Smith on closing the lower landing and recommends warning a public informational meeting to inform residents about closing the stump dump.

Tim Daily added that because of the rural nature of Groton, most people have banks that they can put their leaves and brush over and the State is not forcing compliance with that part of Act 148. Options for creating a new stump dump are few and costly. Both Tim and Wade recommend closing the stump dump.

Review Electrical Panel addition for Community Building:

The Community Building maintenance fund has funds enough to finance an upgrade to the out of date electrical panel. The committee will have an electrician inspect the panel and give an estimate for replacing it. If the costs exceed the contract cap, then a Request for Bid will be announced. Andrew Dorsett moved to allow the Committee to move forward, Mary Grant seconded. In discussion Andrew Dorsett asked if this was in line with the buildings 10 or 20 year plan. The Board Chairman indicated that this would fix all current requirements and would never need to be replaced. The Board Chairman asked the Treasurer how much money was in the maintenance fund. Lisa Hart reported that there was \$5,000.00 available. The Board voted unanimously to approve.

Review Discuss arrival of new fire truck, selling of old fire truck and offer of free ambulance:

Delivery of new fire truck has been delayed until mid-October. The reason given was the fire in Randolph that destroyed the town's fire equipment. Work was shifted to getting equipment for that fire department. The Select Board Chairman wanted to make sure our team was prepared to conduct a good inspection and inventory to ensure the contract had been met before the final payment was made and requests a note from the Chief when the new truck has been accepted. Peter Lyon asked what progress was being made on selling the old fire truck. Wade Johnson said that they were researching sales options so they would be ready to act once the new truck had arrived. He will get a status at the next Fire Department meeting an update the Select Board at their next meeting. The free ambulance that was available through Darling's Automotive proved to be in worse shape than the current ambulance. The EMS Department has opted to pass on the offer.

Review/Approve Resolution for Harv Orr Road:

Peter Lyon researched liability issues through VLCT. Copies of recommendations from VLCT as well as Paul Gulianni, the town's attorney, were provided to Select Board members and a copy for the volunteers to review. Discussion included those liability issues between the town and volunteers, warning property owners of the work being done, creating functioning ditch lines, and asking the property owners to sign a petition and the volunteers to sign a liability agreement. After further discussion the volunteers agreed to meet with the Selectboard, Road Commissioner and property owners at 6:30am on Monday, September 28th to provide additional information on culvert placement and location of drainage ditches. Andrew moved to adopt the resolution pending on property owners signatures, Mary Grant seconded. The Board voted to approve unanimously.

Review/Approve Ricker Mills Road lengthening project:

The contractor awarded the Ricker Mills Road contract has recommended lengthening the paved section to the crest of the hill, an addition of 85 feet at a cost of \$128.92 per foot. Peter Lyon made a motion to change the contract order to add the amount of \$10,958.00 to lengthen the paved section. Mary Grant seconded the motion. In discussion Roberta Dana asked where this money was coming from. The Treasurer indicated that there were funds available in the Town Highway account for this project. This additional amount falls within the budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Recreation Trails Status:

Andrew Dorsett reported on the previous week's meeting. The committee members reviewed the 1875 maps highlighting roads that are no longer included on the highway maps. Kitty Diggins has a meeting with Franco at Cartographics to see what he can do with layers to give the town a more accurate map. The committee is also preparing a letter to send to property owners indicating the town is researching these old roads and are asking if they have any relevant documentation on these roads. Andrew also mentioned that at some point in the future, the town will need to look at a cross Groton ATV trail possibly using some of these ancient roads. There was concern about rowdy riders, Tim Daily indicated that Barnet has a nice trail system and uses a club to ensure trails are maintained and prevent rider abuse.

NVDA Meeting Update:

Peter Lyon briefed NVDA Annual Meeting. The key note speaker focused on rural development. The speaker indicated that rural development monies will be increasing in the upcoming year and there will be opportunities to bring some of that money to Groton to get some work done on some of the town's buildings. Andrew commented that as we move into budget preparation time, we should look at what is available.

Review/Discuss next steps for auditing:

Peter Lyon reviewed the previous 3 audits and reported that common issues show up in each one. He commented that he believes that these issues should be fixed before the town goes through the expense of another audit. Peter contacted Nathan Hawley, (from the auditing firm that conducted the audits) and asked if he could meet with the Select board, Treasurer and town Auditors to go over those audits and assist in correcting those findings and what the cost would be. Nathan Hawley informed Peter that he was available to meet with the town at a cost of \$100.00 per hour and \$50.00 for travel. Peter was estimating the meeting would last 2 hours. Peter went on to say that he feels it would be more beneficial to have these issues fixed before an audit is conducted. Andrew Dorsett indicated that would be a good plan, but still would like to see the town go through a complete audit this year. Mary Grant commented that the audit would close the books for the previous Treasurer and give the incoming Treasurer a starting point. Review of the previous audits was added to the next select board meeting agenda.

Memory Wall Update:

Peter Lyon reported that there are two things going on with the wall, first is reestablishing the back right corner by the fire station. The second this was at the Building Committee Meeting, Terry Dana suggested that the town re-establish the lines around the perimeter of the Community building property. The town got a price from Tom Otterman to re-establish the corner and conduct the survey. To re-establish the corner is a cost of \$300.00 and to mark the property lines is an additional \$400.00. Andrew Dorsett moved to go forward with Tom Otterman, Mary Grant seconded. Select Board voted to approve unanimously. Further discussion on the wall came as Roberta Dana asked about approved expenditures of town funds on the wall. The Select Board Chairman answered that none of the town authorized money has been spent on the wall. Work is being done with donations of time, equipment and material. Town expenses have been to control drainage problems that have plagued the community building for many years.

Board Appointments:

Daniel Robinson appointed as the Building Committee Secretary by Mary Grant. Daniel accepted and the Select Board acknowledged the appointment. Pay was set at \$16.00 per Hr.

The Town Clerk wanted to clarify duties of the Secretary and her in her previous roll. Mary Grant offered that the Select Board would outline duties to prevent any duplication of work and clarify any future issues.

Lighted Flag Pole Update:

A power pedestal was placed at the base of the flag pole in front of the Methodist Church. The select Board wished to acknowledge the hard work of the volunteers, Stan Pierce: Electrician, Shawn Crown: Pavement cut-in, Matt Puffer & Bill Kane: Donation for equipment cost, Modern Woodmen: \$500 for materials, Matt Nunn: \$200 for materials & equipment. Outlets on the pedestal will also be available for the Fall Foliage and holiday displays for the town.

Set Select Board Secretary Hourly Rate:

Select Board established an hourly rate for Secretary's work done outside of the Warned meetings at \$16.00 per hour. Mary Grant moved to approve the rate, Andrew Dorsett seconded the motion the Select Board voted unanimously to approve.

Sidewalk Grant Request Update:

Peter Lyon reported that the sidewalk grant of \$35,000 with 20% matching funds has been approved. The Select Board expressed appreciation to NVDA and Doug Morton for their help. Work on the sidewalk could begin this year. Groton is the first town to be awarded a grant for sidewalks under this program. The work to be completed is 611 feet starting from the Cilley property and extending down to the Methodist Church.

Discuss Preparations for 2016 Budget:

Peter Lyon proposed that the Select Board establish ground rules. Peter will draft them and forward to departments for review and the Select Board will go over them at the next meeting.

Approve Board Minutes:

September 3, 2015 Motion to approve Mary Grant, Andrew Dorsett Seconded, Changes/additions Board wished to recognize John Ashford for his donation of flowers for the gazebo, Cargill estimate was issued under the State contract price, correct spelling on Page 2 and Page 6.

Under the memory wall line, change "mark the corner" to "restore the corner".

Board Voted to approve the minutes, Motion Passed unanimously.

Round table:

Andrew Dorsett commented on procuring thank you cards for the town. The Town Clerk will email him the logo and he will go ahead with a design and purchase the cards for approximately \$40.00.

Lisa Hart wanted it in the record to thank Linda Nunn, Matt Nunn and Katie Hanley for the work and clean up around the front of the community building, and to thank Deb Jurist for supplying the mums.

Lisa Hart asked about follow-up to a zoning letter that went out. Andrew Dorsett made a motion to ask the Zoning Administrator to follow-up on that letter and report back to the Select Board. Mary Grant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Hart reported that she is resigning from the Recreation Committee's Halloween committee and is asking for interested persons to let the Recreation Committee know. She also mentioned that the position may not be needed because of the Trunk or Treat at BMU.

Select Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.